

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Original) A tag interrogation system comprising:

at least one base station; and

a plurality of tags,

wherein each base station has at least two receiving windows during which the base station is operative to receive messages sent by individual tags from among the plurality of tags,

the receiving windows including:

a first, fixed assignment, receiving window comprising a plurality of time slots respectively allocated to the plurality of tags; and

a second, random access, receiving window during which the base station is operative to receive communications from any of the plurality of tags.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Original) An asset monitoring system comprising:

at least one base station; and

a plurality of asset monitoring tags;

wherein the plurality of asset monitoring tags and at least one base stations have defined between them at least one routine communications receiving window in which at least one base station is operative to receive communications sent by individual asset monitoring tags from among the plurality of asset monitoring tags;

and wherein the plurality of asset monitoring tags and at least one base station also have defined between them at least one emergency communications receiving window in which only those asset monitoring tags which have identified themselves as meeting a predetermined emergency criterion, are eligible to utilize, whereby said emergency communications receiving window is statistically less crowded than said routine communications receiving window.

5. (Original) An asset monitoring system according to claim 4 wherein the plurality of asset monitoring tags comprises a plurality of asset tracking tags.

6. (Original) An asset monitoring system according to claim 4 wherein the plurality of asset monitoring tags comprises a plurality of security monitoring tags each providing security within an area of coverage.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Original) A tag interrogation system comprising:

at least one base station; and

a plurality of tags;

wherein each base station has a random access receiving window including at least one non-allocated time slot during which the base station is operative to receive a message from an individual tag from among the plurality of tags,

and wherein each base station is operative to provide an acknowledge message following receipt of the message from the individual tag, wherein the acknowledge message comprises a dynamic identifier of the individual tag characterizing the current communication status of the individual tag.

10. (Original) A system according to claim 9 wherein said dynamic identifier characterizing the individual tag's current communication status comprises an identification of the slot within which the individual tag most recently transmitted.

11. (Original) A system according to claim 9 wherein said dynamic identifier characterizing the individual tag's current communication status comprises a digital signature of the most recent message transmitted by the individual tag.

12-15. (Cancelled)

16. (Original) A system according to ~~any~~ claim 1 and wherein at least some of said plurality of tags is operative to transmit an emergency message outside of a receiving window.

should depend on 39.

39 Now is 23 after allowed.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Original) A system according to claim 2 wherein each tag comprises a mobile tag.

19-26. (Cancelled)

27. (Original) A system according to claim 4 wherein each tag comprises a mobile tag.

28. (Original) A system according to claim 2 wherein communication between base units and tags comprises wireless communication.

29. (Cancelled)

30. (Original) A system according to claim 4 wherein communication between base units and tags comprises wireless communication.

31. (Original) A system according to claim 2 and wherein at least some of said plurality of tags is operative to transmit an emergency message outside of a receiving window.

32. (Previously Presented) A wireless tag communication system comprising:

a first plurality of base stations serving a first plurality of overlapping regions respectively; and

a second plurality of tags;

wherein the first plurality of base stations have a cycle of operation including:

a first plurality of generally non-overlapping broadcasting windows during which the first plurality of base stations, respectively, broadcast; and

a common receiving window during which substantially all of the first plurality of base stations are operative simultaneously to listen for and receive messages from the second plurality of tags,

wherein at least some of said plurality of tags is operative to transmit an emergency message outside of a receiving window.

33. (Original) A system according to claim 4 and wherein at least some of said plurality of tags is operative to transmit an emergency message outside of a receiving window.

34. (Original) A system according to claim 9 and wherein at least some of said plurality of tags is operative to transmit an emergency message outside of a receiving window.

35. (Previously Presented) A tag interrogation system comprising:

at least one base station; and

a plurality of tags, each having a unique tag identification code, said unique tag identification code including a common portion which is common to a plurality of tags of a predetermined user and a tag specific portion which is unique to each individual tag,

wherein each base station is operative to broadcast messages which are received by the plurality of tags and said plurality of tags are operative to respond to said broadcast messages,

wherein at least some of said plurality of tags is operative to transmit an emergency message outside of a receiving window.

36. (Previously Presented) A seal interrogation system comprising:

at least one base station; and

a plurality of seals, each having a unique seal identification code, said unique seal identification code including a common portion which is common to a plurality of seals of a predetermined user and a seal specific portion which is unique to each individual seal;

wherein each base station is operative to broadcast messages which are received by the plurality of seals and said plurality of seals are operative to respond to said broadcast messages,

wherein at least some of said plurality of seals is operative to transmit an emergency message outside of a receiving window.

37. (Previously Presented) A tag interrogation system comprising:

at least one base station; and

a plurality of tags,

wherein each base station is operative to broadcast messages which are received by the plurality of tags and only ones of said plurality of tags which have been tampered with are operative to respond to said broadcast messages,

wherein at least some of said plurality of tags is operative to transmit an emergency message outside of a receiving window.

38. (Previously Presented) A tag interrogation system comprising:

at least one base station; and

a plurality of tags, which are operative for sensing tampering thereof once actuated, said tags being selectively actuatable in response to wireless actuation messages,

wherein each base station is operative to broadcast actuation messages which are received by the plurality of tags and are operative to actuate said tags,

wherein at least some of said plurality of tags is operative to transmit an emergency message outside of a receiving window.

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39. (Currently Amended) A tag interrogation system comprising:

at least one base station; and

a plurality of tags, each having an awake mode and a sleeping mode;

wherein each base station is operative to broadcast messages which are received by said plurality of tags and has a receiving window during which it is operative to receive messages sent by individual tags from among the plurality of tags, and wherein at least some of the messages broadcast by at least some of the base stations include an indication of the time at which a future receiving window is due to open, thereby to allow tags to conserve power by remaining in said sleeping mode until said future receiving window opens. ~~A system according to claim 1 and wherein communication between said at least one base station and said plurality of tags employs synchronization signals based on at least one of the following bit strings:~~

0, 0, 0, 1, 1, 0, 0, 0

1, 0, 0, 1, 1, 0, 0, 0

0, 1, 0, 1, 1, 0, 0, 0
1, 1, 0, 1, 1, 0, 0, 0
0, 0, 0, 1, 1, 1, 1, 0.

40. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 2 and wherein communication between said at least one base station and said plurality of tags employs synchronization signals based on at least one of the following bit strings:

0, 0, 0, 1, 1, 0, 0, 0
1, 0, 0, 1, 1, 0, 0, 0
0, 1, 0, 1, 1, 0, 0, 0
1, 1, 0, 1, 1, 0, 0, 0
0, 0, 0, 1, 1, 1, 1, 0.

41. (Previously Presented) A wireless tag communication system comprising:

a first plurality of base stations serving a first plurality of overlapping regions respectively; and

a second plurality of tags;

wherein the first plurality of base stations have a cycle of operation including:

a first plurality of generally non-overlapping broadcasting windows during which the first plurality of base stations, respectively, broadcast; and

a common receiving window during which substantially all of the first plurality of base stations are operative simultaneously to listen for and receive messages from the second plurality of tags,

wherein communication between said at least one base station and said plurality of tags employs synchronization signals based on at least one of the following bit strings:

0, 0, 0, 1, 1, 0, 0, 0
1, 0, 0, 1, 1, 0, 0, 0
0, 1, 0, 1, 1, 0, 0, 0
1, 1, 0, 1, 1, 0, 0, 0
0, 0, 0, 1, 1, 1, 1, 0.

42. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 4 and wherein

communication between said at least one base station and said plurality of tags employs synchronization signals based on at least one of the following bit strings:

0, 0, 0, 1, 1, 0, 0, 0
1, 0, 0, 1, 1, 0, 0, 0
0, 1, 0, 1, 1, 0, 0, 0
1, 1, 0, 1, 1, 0, 0, 0
0, 0, 0, 1, 1, 1, 1, 0.

43. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 9 and wherein communication between said at least one base station and said plurality of tags employs synchronization signals based on at least one of the following bit strings:

0, 0, 0, 1, 1, 0, 0, 0
1, 0, 0, 1, 1, 0, 0, 0
0, 1, 0, 1, 1, 0, 0, 0
1, 1, 0, 1, 1, 0, 0, 0
0, 0, 0, 1, 1, 1, 1, 0.

44. (Previously Presented) A tag interrogation system comprising:

at least one base station; and

a plurality of tags, each having a unique tag identification code, said unique tag identification code including a common portion which is common to a plurality of tags of a predetermined user and a tag specific portion which is unique to each individual tag,

wherein each base station is operative to broadcast messages which are received by the plurality of tags and said plurality of tags are operative to respond to said broadcast messages,

wherein communication between said at least one base station and said plurality of tags employs synchronization signals based on at least one of the following bit strings:

0, 0, 0, 1, 1, 0, 0, 0
1, 0, 0, 1, 1, 0, 0, 0
0, 1, 0, 1, 1, 0, 0, 0
1, 1, 0, 1, 1, 0, 0, 0
0, 0, 0, 1, 1, 1, 1, 0.

45. (Previously Presented) A seal interrogation system comprising:

at least one base station; and

a plurality of seals, each having a unique seal identification code, said unique seal identification code including a common portion which is common to a plurality of seals of a predetermined user and a seal specific portion which is unique to each individual seal;

wherein each base station is operative to broadcast messages which are received by the plurality of seals and said plurality of seals are operative to respond to said broadcast messages,

wherein communication between said at least one base station and said plurality of seals employs synchronization signals based on at least one of the following bit strings:

0, 0, 0, 1, 1, 0, 0, 0

1, 0, 0, 1, 1, 0, 0, 0

0, 1, 0, 1, 1, 0, 0, 0

1, 1, 0, 1, 1, 0, 0, 0

0, 0, 0, 1, 1, 1, 1, 0.

46. (Previously Presented) A tag interrogation system comprising:

at least one base station; and

a plurality of tags,

wherein each base station is operative to broadcast messages which are received by the plurality of tags and only ones of said plurality of tags which have been tampered with are operative to respond to said broadcast messages,

wherein communication between said at least one base station and said plurality of tags employs synchronization signals based on at least one of the following bit strings:

0, 0, 0, 1, 1, 0, 0, 0

1, 0, 0, 1, 1, 0, 0, 0

0, 1, 0, 1, 1, 0, 0, 0

1, 1, 0, 1, 1, 0, 0, 0

0, 0, 0, 1, 1, 1, 1, 0.

47. (Previously Presented) A tag interrogation system comprising:

at least one base station; and

a plurality of tags, which are operative for sensing tampering thereof once actuated, said tags being selectively actuatable in response to wireless actuation messages,

wherein each base station is operative to broadcast actuation messages which are received by the plurality of tags and are operative to actuate said tags,

wherein communication between said at least one base station and said plurality of tags employs synchronization signals based on at least one of the following bit strings:

0, 0, 0, 1, 1, 0, 0, 0

1, 0, 0, 1, 1, 0, 0, 0

0, 1, 0, 1, 1, 0, 0, 0

1, 1, 0, 1, 1, 0, 0, 0

0, 0, 0, 1, 1, 1, 1, 0.

48. (Previously Presented) A tag interrogation system comprising:

at least one base station; and

a plurality of tags,

wherein each base station is operative to broadcast messages which are received by the plurality of tags, said messages including tracking messages at transmission power levels which monotonically decrease over time and said plurality of tags each respond to the base station indicating which tracking message was received, thereby indicating the level of transmission power which each tag requires in order to receive the message and thus indicating its distance from a given base station,

wherein communication between said at least one base station and said plurality of tags employs synchronization signals based on at least one of the following bit strings:

0, 0, 0, 1, 1, 0, 0, 0

1, 0, 0, 1, 1, 0, 0, 0

0, 1, 0, 1, 1, 0, 0, 0

1, 1, 0, 1, 1, 0, 0, 0

0, 0, 0, 1, 1, 1, 1, 0.

49. (Previously Presented) A tag interrogation system comprising:

at least one base station; and

a plurality of tags, which are operative for sensing tampering thereof once actuated and activated, said tags being selectively actuatable in response to wireless actuation messages,

wherein each base station is operative to broadcast actuation messages which are received by the plurality of tags and are operative to actuate said tags,

wherein communication between said at least one base station and said plurality of tags employs synchronization signals based on at least one of the following bit strings:

0, 0, 0, 1, 1, 0, 0, 0

1, 0, 0, 1, 1, 0, 0, 0

0, 1, 0, 1, 1, 0, 0, 0

1, 1, 0, 1, 1, 0, 0, 0

0, 0, 0, 1, 1, 1, 1, 0.